

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Sherry Steenbock, Rosemary Desisles, Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, John Walschinski

EXCUSED: Donald Bettine

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1407**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of October 16, 2012.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Review of Veterans Day Activities.

Sherry Steenbock felt the WIXX radio show was very successful this year even though it appeared that attendance was down somewhat from previous years. As far as donations, Steenbock stated there were a lot of businesses that offered discounts on goods or services, but she thought it was a little bit harder to get donations of items to be given away at the radio show. To make things easier for next year's event, Steenbock suggested that members of this subcommittee start asking for donations now at businesses they frequent so they can have a good supply ready. Steenbock also thanked Jim Haskins for all his help at the event. She stated that having the ticket board divided by numbers was a great help and it was much easier to find the winners. In her opinion, this was the best radio show they have ever had. Steenbock met a 92 year old WWII vet at the event who really wanted to meet John Maino. She was able to facilitate this and Maino was very happy to spend some time with this man and interviewed him in on the radio.

With regard to collecting donations, Erickson felt that asking for gift certificates may be easier than asking for items since gift certificates can be stored away until next year's event. Haskins did not feel it was difficult to solicit the donations or gift certificates and he encouraged everyone to participate and start now to make next year's event a good one.

Haskins also shared a poem he had written entitled "*Veterans Day Off With Pay*". He stated that he had done some research on Senate Bill 50 which was first introduced in 2003 by Senator Hansen and Representative Van Roy. They met with Governor Doyle and in 2005 there was another Senate Bill introduced, Number 160, and the last bill was Senate Bill 109 in 2008 in which they had to change language to define what a veteran was. Haskins stated that unfortunately most manufacturing companies and government offices are against giving veterans this day off with pay.

Haskins continued that he had seen an article recently in a magazine regarding the NFL and that they will continue their long history of honoring veterans and active duty members of the military with their annual Salute to Service campaign. For every point scored during the NFL's 32 designated Salute to Service games, the league will donate \$100 to each of its three core military non-profit partners – Pat Tillman Foundation, USO and the Wounded Warrior Project. Haskins also reported that Humana pledged to hire 1,000 veterans and/or spouses between 2011 and 2014 in response to the President's challenge for US companies to hire 100,000 veterans or spouses.

Duane Pierce stated that he attended the Veterans Day event at the Yacht Club and the program was beautiful and included a lot of food. The attendance was up by about 20 percent this year and they are aiming for even more next year. Following the Yacht Club ceremony Pierce and Haskins went to the Pearly Gates and enjoyed a free veterans' lunch and Pierce also took part in a veterans' dinner at the Legion Post. He also attended the Patriotic Society event at the Arena. He also took advantage of free meals for veterans at Applebee's and Golden Coral.

6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Erickson stated that Polus was unable to attend the meeting. Erickson continued that he and Polus did a presentation at the Kroc Center recently regarding Veterans Court and the Veterans Clinic. Some things at the Clinic may start as early as April and they are expected to see their first patients in August. Erickson stated that the facility will have the ability to perform out-patient surgery and there will also be a number of psychiatric services available as well as a woman's clinic.

7. Report from Committee Members Present.

-Rosemary Desisles stated that she had received an e mail from Mike Egan regarding the Community Blueprint Team and this is now going to be considered a communications, coordination and referral effort and they are gathering and will continue to gather groups that will assist veterans. This will be a way for people who need help to receive it. Egan would like to attend the next subcommittee meeting to explain this effort further. He also provided Desisles with a few flyers regarding various programs coming up and copies of these documents are attached.

-Jim Haskins did not have anything to add other than what he reported earlier in the meeting.

-Duane Pierce stated that he had recently been informed of a program called "Horses for Heroes". There is currently one designated stable in each state, with Wisconsin's stable being located out on Highway 29. Each stable does things a little differently, but the premise is to provide veterans with a therapeutic, soothing, relaxing atmosphere for respite.

-John Walschinski wished to thank Steenbock and Haskins on behalf of VFW Post 7534 for all the work they did for the Veterans Day activities. He also provided an update on the veterans memorial which will be going up across the street from their Post. The memorial will be called the *Northeastern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial*. The design is complete and the next step will be raising funds and breaking ground. The primary portion of the memorial will be pentagon shaped and will be fully accessible. The pentagon will have five sections created by granite pillars that will be 20 feet tall and each pillar will be dedicated to one branch of service.

-Bernie Erickson stated that he had spoken with Jerry Polus and they felt that they should start working on getting a band for next year's Appreciation Day at the Fair. He felt that they could do things the same way as this year but they will work on this in future meetings. Erickson also stated that he had recently visited a Vietnam Veterans Museum in Hermansville, Michigan.

8. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

Sherry Steenbock said she had been contacted by a local business owner who gave her some red, white and blue veterans ribbons. She suggested that they be distributed at the Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Fair.

9. Adjourn.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO
ADJOURN AT 5:45 P.M. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

Military Night

December 1

A Hero Speaks

Meet Marine Veteran, Kevin Hermening



Kevin Hermening is an active community volunteer, small business owner, and Marine veteran. He was the youngest of the Americans held hostage for 444 days at the US Embassy in Iran from 1979 to 1981, after Islamic terrorists captured the entire diplomatic staff. The hostages were captured after the Shah of Iran entered the US for medical care, and were freed on January 20, 1981, Inauguration Day in the US.

He and his wife have two daughters attending college. He served 10 years as a member of his local Board of Education, has been teaching Junior Achievement to elementary school students for 26 years, is active in and supports many community, fine arts, and veteran's organizations, and is a strong believer in the importance of lifelong volunteerism.

Mr. Hermening challenges all Americans to remember daily the sacrifices that those who wear the uniform of their country make in service to our nation.

Inside Santa's Workshop

Park and enter between the two Pavilions.

★ 5:30 pm

• Military Color Guard

6:00 pm

★ Featured Speaker
Kevin Hermening

Enchantment
IN THE PARK*

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR PARK • 3000 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD (HWY 9V), WEST BEND, WI 53095
ENCHANTMENT IN THE PARK IS A LARGE HOLIDAY LIGHTS DISPLAY HELD TO BENEFIT LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES
SPONSORED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ROTARY CLUBS, WEST BEND NOON • WEST BEND SURPRISE • HARTFORD • SUNGER/ALLEN/SON

Show your Military ID
on Dec. 1 and drive through
Enchantment lights display
without a donation.

ISFAC

"Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee"

Quarterly ISFAC Meeting

Date: December 6, 2012

Time: 0900-1300 hrs



ISFAC is comprised of Federal, State, and Non-profit organizations that support all our Service Members and their Families from all branches of the Armed Forces. Being a part of this committee enhances your knowledge and resource base to more effectively support our Service Members, Veterans, Wounded Warriors, Family Members, and other service providers within the Badger State. Attending the ISFAC meeting will allow you the opportunity to interact with

various Federal, State, and Private organizations which are available in the community where the Service Member lives.

Meeting Highlights

- Keynote Speaker : Scott Berger, Marathon CVSO
- Networking with other service professionals

Hosted by:

Military Family Assistance Center

US Army Reserve Center

5700 N 28th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

ISFAC Contact:

Kevin Herman

kevin.j.herman.civ@mail.mil

608.388.3540

Local Contact:

Jae Wolf

janey.wolf@us.army.mil

715-307-4384





Holiday Mail for Heroes



**American
Red Cross**

**Send a card and greeting to a Service Member, and Veteran,
this holiday season.**

**All holiday cards can be sent to the following address up to
December 7th:**

**Holiday Mail for Heroes
PO Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456**

**OR delivered to your local American Red Cross by Tuesday,
December 4th.**

When making cards:

Do...

- ✦ **Include your heartfelt sentiments and sign all cards**
- ✦ **Entitle cards with generic terms such as “Dear Service Member, or Veteran”**
- ✦ **Bundle groups of cards in single, large envelopes (you do not need to include the individual envelopes for cards when mailing in multiple cards)**

Don't...

- ✦ **Send inserts of any kind, letters, care packages or money gifts**
- ✦ **Include personal information such as home or email addresses**
- ✦ **Use glitter – excessive amounts can aggravate health issues of wounded recipients**

